

the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, an Air Medal With Valor device, and the Combat Action Badge.

Corey Goodnature was survived by his wife, Lori; his sons, Shea and Brennan; and his parents, Deb and Don Goodnature of Clarks Grove, Minnesota. He had many friends and relatives throughout my district in southern Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, Corey died doing something that he deeply believed in, and he is a true hero to our Nation, to his family, and to his friends. We are all grateful for Corey's undeniable dedication and sacrifice, as well as those who he served with and died with. This dedication allows all of us to enjoy the freedoms and liberty of this great Nation. The world has suffered a great loss. We lost a great man; and his friends and relatives lost a son, a husband, a father, brother, uncle, Godfather, and loyal friend.

Less than 2 weeks before he died and exactly 1 month before he was buried, Corey sent a simple prayer to his wife, a prayer that I am honored to share with my colleagues today. He wrote: "Lord, continue to bless Lori and help us to grow and strengthen our bond as a family separated by distance, whether it be me, here, Lori by herself, or Shea and Brennan, wherever life takes them. I believe You have a glorious plan for us, and we honor You as the source of our happiness and success. In Your name we pray, Amen."

May the Lord of our fathers find His mercy upon Lori and all of the friends and relatives of Corey Goodnature. May He continue to bless America and all the brave Americans who defend her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### POLITICAL SCANDAL PLAGUES OHIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as those listening might recall, the 2004 Presidential election was decided in Ohio, my home State, and the margin in the Presidential race was razor thin. But if you have been paying attention to Ohio newspapers of late, you know that there is a broad and widening major political scandal in Ohio that relates to the last election. People who have paid attention to Ohio or live in Ohio can read about it on the Web site of our local newspaper; the toledoblade.com is the site.

But what this concerns is that the highest elected officials in Ohio, starting with the Governor of Ohio, the Attorney General of Ohio, the auditor of Ohio, the Secretary of State of Ohio, were all in receipt of campaign contributions from an individual who is now charged with diverting millions of dollars from the State of Ohio's Workers' Compensation trust fund for personal use and for political use. There is a grand jury that has been empaneled in Ohio now involving the northern and southern districts of Ohio, looking at the diversion of some of these dollars to the Bush campaign. It is a broad and widening scandal, as I have said.

Then, today, the Secretary of State of Ohio is mentioned in articles that were published by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and by the Columbus Dispatch in our capital city, and I will just read a couple of the lines: The Board of Elections of our capital city, and that, of course, is Columbus, Ohio, the Franklin County Board docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting \$10,000 in his office last year from a consultant from the voting machine company Diebold, with which we have had so many fights over the last 2 years, trying to get verified, auditable paper trails in those voting machines.

Now, it appears that that company, through its consultant, actually walked into the office of the director of the Board of Elections and wrote a check for \$10,000, which the director of the board was a little reluctant to accept, but said, well, why don't you write it out to the local political party, the Republican Party of Columbus Ohio, Franklin County, which was done.

Well, now, this has been all discovered, and the investigation of what has transpired with the Secretary of State's office and Diebold and this County Board of Elections is being investigated.

One of our State senators from Ohio, Senator Teresa Fedor, has sent a letter to the Office of the United States Attorney in northern Ohio requesting a formal investigation of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell regarding possible violations of Federal law, including, but not limited to, the Hobbs Act, regarding improper dealings between the Secretary of State's office and Diebold Election Systems, or their agents.

She goes on, and I will place the full letter in the RECORD, to ask the Inspector General to look at a series of conflict of interest questions here and the gravity of pay-to-play allegations, to determine whether Mr. Blackwell, the Secretary of State, violated Federal law by accepting campaign contributions in exchange for official acts. Because, Mr. Speaker, if you look at what has been happening in Ohio, there has absolutely been a preference for the Diebold machines; there have been delays, there have been all kinds of efforts made to advantage one company over other companies.

I want to place some of these news articles in the RECORD tonight. Also, there is a huge court case pending between a company called ESS, which is another company that has voting machines, and Diebold Corporation. That is in the courts. Our Secretary of State is saying, oh, you have to pick these machines, you have to pick the Diebold machines; they are the only machines that we have certified without giving other machines an equal chance.

What is interesting about this is that Ohio has received \$136,552,794 over the last 2 years to purchase these machines, so there is Federal taxpayer dollars involved, and another \$44,616,967 for training of election officials. None of those training dollars have been spent, but \$136 million has gone out for hardware in a very narrow process where one company has been so very advantaged.

So I just wanted to draw people's attention to what is going on in the State of Ohio, to the ongoing court case, to the false deadlines set by our Secretary of State, now by the investigation that has been requested by our very high-ranking senators of the U.S. Attorney in Ohio, and I commend listeners to the toledoblade.com Web site to the developing political scandal in the State of Ohio.

[From the Blade Columbus Bureau, July 19, 2005]

#### ELECTIONS CHIEF PUNISHED FOR TAKING CHECK

FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICIAL ACCEPTED \$10,000  
ON BEHALF OF GOP FROM DIEBOLD CONSULTANT  
(By Jim Provance)

COLUMBUS.—The Franklin County Board of Elections yesterday docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting a 10,000 check in his office last year from a Diebold Inc. consultant seeking county business.

Matt Damschroder accepted the check on behalf of the county Republican Party.

He came forward after a Diebold competitor, Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software, sought to depose him as part of a lawsuit alleging special treatment for Diebold on the part of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell.

Mr. Blackwell plans to seek the GOP nomination for governor in 2006.

His office denied any connection between campaign contributions and his decisions affecting Diebold.

Diebold's device has the only computerized touch-screen machine so far to win state certification for its paper-receipt backup system.

Such a system was mandated last year by the Ohio General Assembly.